52,391/- is pending before the MRTP Commission. The matter was last heard on 15.10.98 and is again listed before the Commission on 4.1.99. Another application filed by Ms. Alka Sharma under Section 36B(a) of the MRTP Act has been dismissed by the Commission.

Amendment in Hindu Marriage Act

1786. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet has recently approved the proposal to amend the Hindu Marriage Act is reported in the Statesman dated the 18th September, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of amendments likely to be made in the Act; and

(c) the purpose of making such amendments in the Act?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) The news item referred to in the question related to the decision of the Government to further pursue in Parliament the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997 which was introduced in Rajya Sabha on the 13th August, 1997. The Bill seeks further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 so as to omit references to 'epilepsy' in those Acts.

Discrepancies in Identity Cards issued to Voters

1787. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission had some years back introduced the scheme of issuing identity cards to the voters in the country; if so, the number of identity cards issued so far State-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred State-wise and the number of cards yet to be issued;

(c) whether any time frame was fixed to cover all voters; and

(d) whether Government are aware of large scale of complaints of voters about discrepancies/errors in the I-cards and also in the voters list; if so, the remedial steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) Statement-I showing number of photo identity cards issued State-wise as on 31.10.98 and Statement-II showing the amount released by the Central Government to various States for implementation of the scheme of photo identity cards are laid on the Table of the House. *(See* below)

(c) The Election Commission had initially fixed 30th November, 1994 as the deadline for the completion of the scheme. This deadline was, however, extended from time to time and it was last extended upto 31st March, 1996. No fresh deadline thereafter was fixed as issue of photo identity cards is a continuous programme.

(d) The complaints regarding discrepancies/errors in the identity cards and in voters lists as received, are looked into by the concerned District Election Officers/Electoral Registration Officers and necessary rectifications are carried out.

Statement-I

Status Report on Progress of Electors Photo I-Cards

(As on 31.10.98)

	State/UT	Total Electors	No. of Electors with Defect Free Identity Card	Percentage of 3 to 2
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49140231	32544932	66.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	565278	363143	64.24
3.	Assam *	12575854	67479	0.54
4.	Bihar $	58438317	21681836	37.10
5.	Goa	878707	525575	59.81
6.	Gujarat	28771198	23177051	80.56
7.	Haryana	10957242	9513347	86.82
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3582024	2640398	73.7
9.	Karnataka £	33052802	24046881	72.75
10.	Kerala	21152899	11164440	52.78
11.	Madhya Pradesh $	43919010	27282131	62.12
12.	Maharashtra	56173068	43556045	77.53
13.	Manipur	1330299	1033733	77.70
14.	Meghalaya £	1157450	644140	55.65
15.	Mizoram V	441844	0	0
16.	Nagaland &	925831	560207	63.00
17.	Orissa	23373512	17976113	76.91
18.	Punjab	15310889	10681780	69.77
19.	Rajasthan £	29738496	18743095	63.03
20.	Sikkim	236321	200077	84.66
21.	Tamil Nadu	45577323	19755955	45.00
22.	Tripura	1725809	1203291	69.72
23.	Uttar Pradesh	101943066	53016879	52.01
24.	West Bengal £	46832298	34389847	73.43
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands £	231928	177810	76.67
26.	Chandigarh	533222	375406	70.4
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	95832	62950	65.69
28.	Daman & Diu	71931	45645	63.00
29.	NCT of Delhi	8313868	5705390	68.62
30.	Lakshadweep	36738	31032	84.47
31.	Pondicherry	665486	555675	83.50
32.	J&K			
	Not Notified under Sec. 61A of the R.P. Act, 1951			
	All India	597748773	361722284	60.51

Note:— $ 15.4.98, *15.5.98, ₱15.8.98
& 30.8.98, £ 30.9.98
VIn Mizoram the work has not yet commenced.

Statement-II

Details of the Amount Released to the States/UTs on Account of Photo-Identity cards Scheme

	States	Amount released in 1994-95 (in Rs)	Amount released in 1995-96 (in Rs)	Amount released in 1996-97 (in Rs)	Amount released in 1997-98 (in Rs)	Total Amount released so far (a+b+c+d in Rs)
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17,71,37,000	17,38,63,000	—	—	35,10,00,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	93,46,120	35,29,000	—	—	1,28,75,120
3.	Assam	5,49,20,000	6,98,03,000	—	—	12,47,23,000
4.	Bihar	22,76,00,000	12,77,92,000	—	—	35,53,92,000
5.	Goa	31,93,000	23,83,000	—	1,41,000	57,17,000
6.	Gujarat	12,25,84,508	7,24,16,000	3,01,20,000	1,76,94,000	24,28,14,508
7.	Haryana	5,13,34,000	2,47,51,000	—	—	7,60,85,000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2,15,61,000	1,62,16,000	—	—	3,77,77,000
9.	Jammu & Kashmir*	1,69,07,000	—	—	—	1,69,07,000
10.	Karnataka	13,52,92,000	8,56,61,000	—	—	22,09,53,000
11.	Kerala	7,50,00,000	—	—	—	7,50,00,000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16,08,14,000	8,91,92,000	—	1,27,69,000	26,27,75,000
13.	Maharashtra	20,49,59,884	27,49,20,000	—	—	47,98,79,884
14.	Manipur	1,40,72,244	1,38,38,000	—	—	2,79,10,244
15.	Meghalaya	1,01,67,000	1,47,67,000	—	—	2,49,34,000
16.	Mizoram	15,70,000	94,65,000	—	—	1,10,35,000
17.	Nagaland	32,52,000	2,17,08,000	40,000	—	2,50,00,000
18.	Orissa	8,44,78,244	9,30,22,000	—	—	17,75,00,244
19.	Punjab	5,53,07,000	5,20,45,000	—	6,75,000	10,80,27,000
20.	Rajasthan	11,36,00,000	6,64,00,000	—	—	18,00,00,000
21.	Sikkim	21,93,000	17,43,000	6,28,000	1,32,000	46,96,000
22.	Tamil Nadu	16,17,05,000	18,27,50,000	—	—	34,44,55,000
23.	Tripura	66,93,000	48,57,000	—	—	1,15,50,000
24.	Uttar Pradesh	36,84,00,000	36,84,03,000	—	—	73,68,03,000
25.	West Bengal	13,50,00,000	14,52,00,000	1,89,76,000	1.85,89,000	31,77,65,000
	Union Territores					
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2,43,40,276	25,86,000	—	—	2,69,26,276
2.	Chandigarh	27,66,911	18,96,545	—	—	46,63,456
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2,00,000	2,96,000	—	—	4,96,000
4.	Daman & Diu	2,95,093	2,35,818	—	—	5,34,911
5.	Delhi	2,94,21,000	2,89,11,000	—	—	5,83,32,000
6.	Lakshadweep	7,97,589	69,478	—	—	8,67,067
7.	Pondicherry	35,93,000	24,46,000	2,36,000	—	62,75,000
	Total	227,85,03,869	195,11,64,841	5,00,00,000	5,00,00,000	432,96,68,710

*The amount has been allowed to be utillised for other electoral expernses as the scheme of issuance of Photo-identity Cards to voters introduced by the Election Commission, has not been made applicable by the Commission in the case of Jammu and Kashmir.